

Questionnaire for Solicitors

Enumerator no.: E _____

Sample no. : _____

- 1. On average, how many hours per week did you work on the following legal services in the past six months (in 2005)?**

Litigation related: _____ hours/week
 Non-litigation related: _____ hours/week
 Arbitration/ mediation: _____ hours/week
 Non-chargeable work*: _____ hours/week

 Total: _____ hours/week

*Work that cannot be charged to the clients, including for example administration and professional development.

- 2. Please advise which categories of clients you have represented in the past six months (in 2005) and the estimated proportion of time spent serving each group of clients?**

(Please “tick” in the boxes below. More than one category of clients may be chosen, if applicable)

	Percentage of time spent in 2005					
	0%	1-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81-100%
a) Criminal						
Large corporations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small and medium enterprises*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Government and public bodies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private individuals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Civil						
Large corporations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small and medium enterprises*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Government and public bodies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-profit-making organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private individuals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*Manufacturing companies with less than 100 employees or non-manufacturing companies with less than 50 employees.

- 3. Have you taken up any cases in the past six months (in 2005) which were funded by legal aid or the Duty Lawyer Scheme?**

(1) ☐ Yes

(2) ☐ No. The reason(s): _____

4. Please advise the estimated proportion of criminal and civil cases handled by you in the past six months (in 2005), in terms of time spent, by sources of funding.

	Percentage of time spent in 2005			
	Cases funded by Legal Aid	Cases funded by Duty Lawyers	Cases funded by government	Cases funded by clients other than government
Litigation				
Criminal				
Civil				
Non-litigation				
Criminal				
Civil				

5. Please advise the estimated proportion of criminal and civil cases handled by you in the past six months (in 2005), in terms of time spent, by levels of courts.

	Percentage of time spent in 2005				
	Non-litigation	Tribunals	Magistrates Court	District Court	High Court/ Court of Final Appeal
Criminal					
Civil					

6. Please provide information on the estimated proportion of time spent on each category of legal services provided by you in the past six months (in 2005)? (Please "tick" all that apply)

	Percentage of time spent in 2005				
	1-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81-100%
a) Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Civil					
PRC-related matters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administrative/ constitutional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advocacy services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial and company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shipping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intellectual property	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Insolvency and bankruptcy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wills and probate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matrimonial and family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discrimination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Defamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Immigration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal injuries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Professional negligence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consumer services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landlord and tenant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land and property	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notarial services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others, please specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Do you take any measures personally to promote legal services of your firm?

(1) ☐ Yes, please describe in general terms the measures taken:

(2) ☐ No. The reasons are:

8. In your experience, what are the factors affecting your choice of barristers?

(Please "tick" in the boxes below. More than one choice may be selected.)

	Very Important	Important	Not very Important	Not Important At All
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
a) Past experience with barristers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Recommendation by friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Recommendation by other solicitors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Reputation of barristers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Experience of barristers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Performance records of barristers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Location of barrister's chambers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Fee level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Others, please specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. In your experience, what are the factors affecting your clients' choice of the service of your firm? (Please "tick" in the boxes below. More than one choice may be selected.)

	Very Important	Important	Not very Important	Not Important At All
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
a) Past experience with solicitors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Recommendations by friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Referrals by other solicitors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Ability to provide one-stop service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Reputation of solicitors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Reputation of solicitor firms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Experience of solicitors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Size of solicitor firms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Location of solicitor firms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Fee level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) Advertisements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l) Others, please specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Please advise the proportion of cases in the past six months (in 2005) in which the choice of barristers is based on recommendations of your clients or recommendations of solicitors of your firm.

(1) ☐ Primarily recommendation of your clients _____%

(2) ☐ Primarily recommendation of solicitors of your firm _____%

Total

100%

11. Have you participated in pro bono services in the past six months (in 2005)?

- (1) ☐ Yes, the activities participated were:
(More than one choice may be chosen)
- Average time spent per month**
- (3) ☐ Free Legal Advice Scheme (for civil cases) = ____ hours
- (4) ☐ Bar Free Legal Advice Scheme = ____ hours
- (5) ☐ Free legal advice service organised by NGO = ____ hours
Name(s) of NGO: _____
- (6) ☐ Other free legal advice service to the public = ____ hours
Please specify: _____
- (7) ☐ Community legal education (e.g. seminars/ talks) = ____ hours
- (8) ☐ Honorary legal advisors to NGO = ____ hours
Name(s) of NGO: _____
- (9) ☐ Others, please specify: _____ = ____ hours
- (2) ☐ No. The reasons were: (More than one choice may be chosen)
- (10) ☐ No time
- (11) ☐ No interest
- (12) ☐ Location of service not convenient
- (13) ☐ Others, please specify: _____

12. Please indicate below the hourly rate you charged your clients in the past six months (in 2005)?
(Please “tick” all that apply)

	Hourly rate charged in 2005					
	Below \$1,000	\$1,001-\$2,000	\$2,001-\$3,000	\$3,001-\$5,000	\$5,001-\$7,500	Above \$7,500
a) Criminal						
Litigation						
Legal aid cases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid by government/ public bodies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid by business corporations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid by private individuals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-litigation						
Legal aid cases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid by government/ public bodies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid by business corporations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid by private individuals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Civil						
Litigation						
Legal aid cases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid by business corporations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid by government/ public bodies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid by non-profit-making organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid by private individuals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Hourly rate charged in 2005					
	Below \$1,000	\$1,001- \$2,000	\$2,001- \$3,000	\$3,001- \$5,000	\$5,001- \$7,500	Above \$7,500
Non-litigation						
Legal aid cases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid by business corporations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid by government/ public bodies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid by non-profit-making organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid by private individuals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. Please indicate below changes in hourly rate you charge in 2005 as compared with three years ago (i.e. 2002).

- (1) ☐ Criminal cases:
- (3) ☐ Cases financed by clients in the private sector (please “tick” as appropriate)
- (a) ☐ Increase significantly
- (b) ☐ Increase
- (c) ☐ No change
- (d) ☐ Decrease
- (e) ☐ Decrease significantly
- (2) ☐ Civil cases:
- (4) ☐ Cases financed by clients in the private sector (please “tick” as appropriate)
- (a) ☐ Increase significantly
- (b) ☐ Increase
- (c) ☐ No change
- (d) ☐ Decrease
- (e) ☐ Decrease significantly

14. Please advise below your present fee structure.

- (1) ☐ For cases funded by private clients:
- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| | <u>% of cases in 2005</u> |
| (3) <input type="checkbox"/> Time charge | _____ % |
| (4) <input type="checkbox"/> Scale fee | _____ % |
| (5) <input type="checkbox"/> Lump sum | _____ % |
| (6) <input type="checkbox"/> Others, please specify: _____ | _____ % |
| Total | 100% |
- (2) ☐ No definite fee structure.

15. Please give below any views you may have on the balance between demand for and supply of legal services in Hong Kong.

———— End of Questionnaire ————